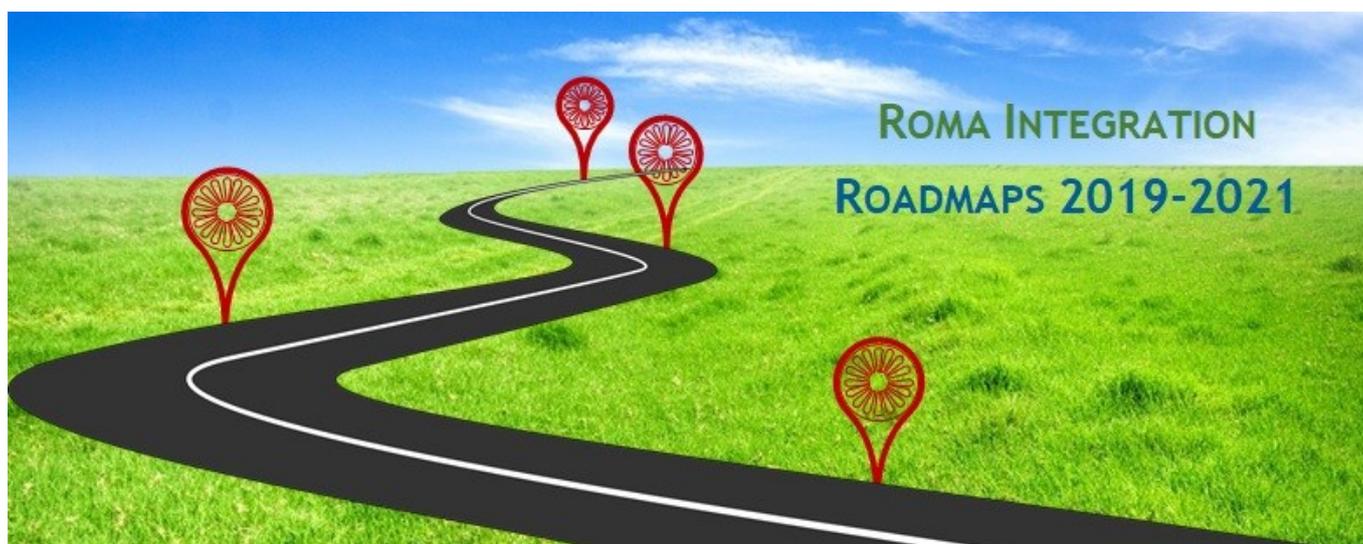




ROMA INTEGRATION

ROADMAP 2019-2021

REPUBLIC OF SERBIA

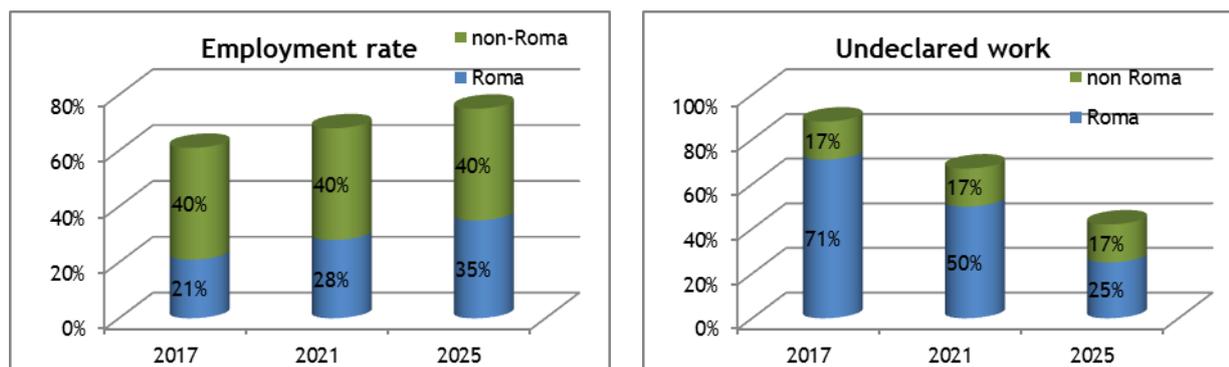


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Employment



The only statistical data provided within the Republic of Serbia annual report for the implementation of the Roma integration policy for 2017 is that 3.058 registered unemployed Roma have participated in the active employment measures (2% of the total). The National Roma Integration Strategy (NRIS) uses the 2011 Regional Roma Survey data. According to the newest 2017 Regional Roma Survey data, there are only **21% employed Roma** compared to the 40% of non-Roma living in proximity with Roma, and to the **55% national employment rate**. At the same time **71% Roma are engaged in undeclared work**, compared to only 17% non-Roma and the **national average of 22%**.

Encouraging **formal employment** of work-able Roma is contained in the objective of the NRIS related to employment, although not quantified. **Legalisation of undeclared work**, particularly waste collection (by integrating it in the municipal waste management system) is singled out as **operational objective 7** under employment in the NRIS. The measures envisaged with the strategies include, among others: affirmative financial and non-financial support for the economic activities of Roma; specific self-employment and entrepreneurship subsidies for Roma; incentivise cooperatives and regulate and incentivise social entrepreneurship; forbidding depositing recyclable waste by law; incentives and support to municipalities to develop local waste collection plans integrating individual waste collectors; subsidising individual waste collectors for equipment for work. **None of the stipulated measures regarding formalisation of undeclared work have been implemented in 2017**, according to the Republic of Serbia annual report.

To reduce the significant gaps in the employment and undeclared work rates among Roma and non-Roma in Serbia, gradual milestones are adopted:

- **By 2021 increase the employment rate of Roma to 28% and decrease the undeclared work to 50%;**
- **By 2025 increase the employment rate of Roma to 35% and decrease the undeclared work to 25%.**

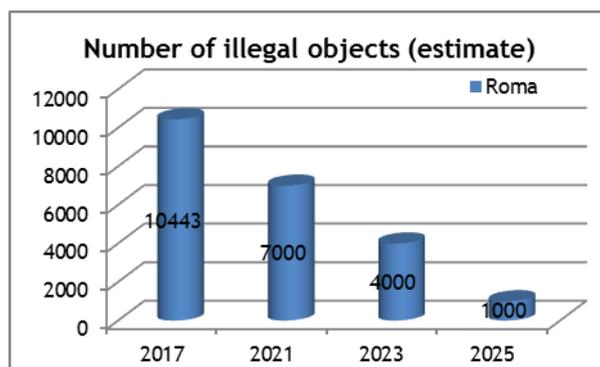
Addressing the low employment rate of Roma and the high undeclared work (in general and for Roma), as well as the waste management regulation, is contributing to Serbia's EU integration.

The Roma Integration action shall work with the government of the Republic of Serbia to develop a comprehensive policy and the accompanying legislation and funding proposals addressing the formalisation of undeclared work, with particular focus on waste management, including regarding the regulation of the matter at local level. The support shall be provided in the form of provision of expertise in data collection, policy formulation, budget planning and funding proposal formulation.

A full programme for formalisation of undeclared work in the area of waste management will be developed, taking into account the need for gradual reduction of social aid to poor families with members engaged in undeclared waste collection, the need for regulation of the waste management at local level, the modalities for formalisation of the work, the support and services needed to run the formalised work (legal, administrative, financial, managerial), the need for specific treatment of the work because of its nature, and other aspects. According to the programme, the support provided by the action shall assist in formulating the legislation that needs to be amended/adopted and formulating funding proposals for the implementation of the programme.

¹ The national average rate of informal work is taken from the [Economic Reform Programme 2018-2020](#).

Housing



Republic of Serbia's annual report on Roma integration policy implementation for 2017 provides data on Roma dwellings electricity, water and sewerage connection rates, waste collection rate, number of household members per dwelling and overcrowding rate. There are no data on the housing ownership. Serbia's government was supported in developing a Geographic Information System (GIS) on substandard Roma settlements. Through the IPA 2014 funded "Technical assistance for improvement of socio economic living conditions of Roma population" that started in March 2019, the GIS database is to be updated. At the time being the database is not available for access. Official information is provided on 08.02.2017 from the last conducted census, according to which there are **594 substandard Roma settlements, with 20.477 dwellings and with 48.223 persons living in those dwellings**. According to the responsible officials, census is not providing data on legal aspects of ownership, but their estimation is that "most probably most of the objects are illegal". For the purpose of planning the Roadmap for Serbia, according to the available data, the baseline may be set to 51% of stated numbers: **10.443 illegal dwellings at 303 substandard settlements, with 24.594 persons**.

Based on the estimated baseline, the milestones are set at **legalisation of at least 1.500 illegal dwellings of Roma per year by 2025** - the tentative EU accession date for Serbia. The milestones should be revised once more accurate data is available, with the recommendation to set ambitious milestones. The Law on Treatment of Illegally Built Objects and the Law on Housing and Maintaining of Housing Objects are providing for legalisation and triggering adequate procedure in cases where legalisation is not possible. The deadline for application for legalisation has passed. There is no information on the number of Roma applicants for legalisation, but it is estimated that not all Roma in need for legalisation have applied. Although there are legal provisions for proper accommodation of persons living in illegal objects, the cost to demolish the objects and built social housing would be too high, compared to the cost for legalisation of as many dwellings as possible. Previous, ongoing and planned actions funded mainly by the EU have been implemented to prepare urban plans, legalise dwellings and build social housing (these are reported by the government in the annual report for 2017).

The Ministry of Connection, Transport and Infrastructure is the final beneficiary for two service contract funded by the EU: „Technical Assistance for improvement of living and housing conditions among the Roma population presently residing in informal settlements" IPA 2013 and, "Technical assistance for improvement of socio economic living conditions of Roma population" IPA 2014. Both the actions have, as one of the main component, preparing of detailed regulation plans and technical documentation, the first action for 13 Roma settlements and the second action for 100 Roma settlements. Additionally, the Ministry is the final beneficiary for the contract "Grant scheme: Durable housing solutions and physical infrastructure improvements in Roma settlements" form IPA 2013. It is implemented in 13 municipalities and entails various housing and infrastructure works: construction of houses and residential buildings, construction of water supply and sewerage networks, reconstructions of houses and buildings etc. All facilities constructed in the Roma settlements shall be legalised after the construction. **The Roma Integration action shall work with the government of Republic of Serbia to review the existing data on housing of Roma, establish a proper monitoring system and make data available for policy (and funding) formulation.** It shall also work with the government and the relevant stakeholders to identify policy / legislation gaps required for legalisation of Roma dwellings and formulate the needed planning documents and/or legislation. At the proposal of the Government of Serbia, Roma Integration may also work on identifying the remaining housing needs after the completion of the IPA funded actions, and technically support the development of further funding proposals to address the remaining needs.